

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for capturing and storing images in a camera comprising the steps of:

capturing a plurality of image pairs in a camera, each said image pair having an archival image of a scene in a film unit and an initial electronic image of the same scene, said archival image of each said pair having a first geometric format;

storing said initial electronic images in memory;

recording in association with selected image pairs of said plurality, a designation of an alternative geometric format different than said first geometric format;

removing said film unit from said camera;

abridging said initial electronic images of said selected image pairs to said alternative geometric format to provide abridged electronic images; and

replacing, in said memory, said initial electronic images of said selected image pairs with respective said abridged electronic images.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said alternative geometric format has a different aspect ratio than said first geometric format.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said abridging is concurrent with said removing.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said recording includes writing said designations of said alternative geometric format to said film unit in association with respective said archival images.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said initial electronic images in said memory have said first geometric format.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said archival images are non-erasable digital images.

7. A method for capturing and storing images in a hybrid electronic-photographic film camera comprising the steps of:

capturing a plurality of image pairs in a camera, each said image pair having a latent image of a scene on photographic film and an initial electronic image of the same scene, said latent image of each said pair having a first geometric format;

storing said initial electronic images in memory;

recording in association with selected image pairs of said plurality, a designation of an alternative geometric format different than said first geometric format;

removing said photographic film from said camera;

abridging said initial electronic images of said selected image pairs to said alternative geometric format to provide abridged electronic images; and

replacing, in said memory, said initial electronic images of said selected image pairs with respective said abridged electronic images.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said abridging is concurrent with said removing.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein said recording includes writing said designations of said alternative geometric format to said film in association with respective said latent images and writing said designations of said alternative geometric format to said memory in association with respective said electronic images.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of deleting said designations from said memory, concurrent with said abridging.

11. The method of claim 7 wherein said initial electronic images in said memory have said first geometric format.

12. A method for capturing and storing images in a hybrid electronic-film camera comprising the steps of:

capturing a plurality of image pairs in a camera, each said image pair having a latent image of a scene on photographic film and an initial electronic image of the same scene, said latent image of each said pair having a first geometric format;

storing said initial electronic images in memory;

assigning one of a plurality of geometric formats to each of said image pairs, said plurality of geometric formats including said first geometric format and one or more alternative geometric formats, said alternative geometric formats being different from each other and from said first geometric format;

removing said photographic film from said camera;

concurrent with said removing, abridging said initial electronic images of said image pairs assigned said alternative geometric formats to respective said alternative geometric formats; and

replacing, in said memory, said initial electronic images of said image pairs assigned said alternative geometric formats with respective said abridged electronic images.

13. The method of claim 12 further comprising assigning one of a plurality of print quantity designations to each said image pair.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said assigning of said geometric formats further comprises writing said designations to said film in association with respective said latent images and writing said designations to said memory in association with respective said initial electronic images.

15. The method of claim 14 further comprising deleting said designations from said memory concurrent with said abridging.

16. A hybrid camera for use with a film unit, said camera comprising:

a body;

an archival image capture unit mounted in said body, said archival image capture unit selectively capturing archival images in the film unit;

an assigner selectively switchable to associate a designation of one of a plurality of different geometric formats with each of said archival images; and

an electronic subsystem mounted in said body, said electronic subsystem having an imager capturing electronic images corresponding to said archival images, memory storing said electronic images, and a controller operatively connected to said memory, said controller selectively abridging said electronic images in said memory to said geometric formats of corresponding said archival images.

17. The camera of claim 16 wherein said archival image capture unit further comprises a film holder selectively switchable from holding the film unit to freeing the film unit and said controller abridges all of said electronic images responsive to said freeing.

18. The camera of claim 16 wherein said electronic subsystem has a communications port operatively connectable to said memory to download said electronic images.

19. The camera of claim 18 wherein said controller abridges all of said electronic images responsive to said download of said electronic images.

20. The camera of claim 16 wherein said archival images have an aspect ratio that is the same as in one of said geometric formats.

21. The camera of claim 16 wherein said controller is operatively connected to said assigner and, concurrent with said capturing, writes said designations to said memory in association with corresponding said electronic images, and, concurrent with said abridging, deletes said designations from said memory.

22. The camera of claim 16 wherein said assigner is selectively switchable to associate a designation of one of a plurality of different print quantities with each of said archival images; said controller is operatively connected to said assigner; said controller, concurrent with said capturing, writes said designations to said memory in association with corresponding said electronic images; and said controller, concurrent with said abridging, deletes said designations from said memory.

23. A hybrid electronic-film camera for use with photographic film, said camera comprising:

a body having a film space holding the photographic film;
a signaler operatively disposed to signal when said film is

removed;

a capture system disposed in said body, said capture system being selectively actuable to capture a series of light images as image pairs, each said image pair having a latent film image and electronic image of the same light image, said capture system having a film capture unit capturing said latent images on the photographic film in a first geometric format, said capture system having an electronic capture unit capturing said electronic images;

memory disposed in said body, said memory being operatively connected to said electronic capture unit, said memory storing all of said electronic images;

a format designator selectively switchable, in relation to each said image pair, among a first designation and one or more alternative designations, said first designation identifying said first geometric format, said alternative designations each identifying an alternative geometric format, said alternative geometric formats being different from each other and from said first geometric format;

a film writer writing said designations to said film in association with respective said latent images;

a controller operatively connected to said signaler, said memory, and said format designator, said controller writing said designations to said memory in association with respective said electronic images, said controller, responsive to said signaler signal, abridging said electronic images in said memory to said geometric formats of respective said designations.

24. The camera of claim 23 wherein said memory stores all of said images in said first geometric format prior to said abridging.

25. The camera of claim 23 wherein said controller deletes said designations from said memory concurrent with said abridging.